

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 8, 11-16, 18-19, 21-23 and 25-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 25 and 27 are amended and claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 3, 5, 8, 11-16, 18, 19, 21-23 and 25-36 are allowed.

The Office Action objects to claims 25 and 27 because of informalities. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Office Action's suggestion. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Each of independent claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 14, 18, 23, 31, 34 and 36 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-5, 8, 11-16, 18-19, 21-23 and 25-36 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. **10/726,649**

Docket No. **IPS-0016**

Reply to Office Action dated December 24, 2008

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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